

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DECEMBER 29, 2011

The special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

Members Present

First Selectman, Michael J. Freda

Second Selectman, Timothy M. Doheny

Third Selectman, Alan J. Sturtz

Mr. Freda introduced himself and Selectmen Doheny and Sturtz, and welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the main purpose of this special meeting was to make appointments to the various Town boards and commissions.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda.

Mr. William Leiserson, 15 Cella Terrace, stated that he was happy that the Board is recognizing Mr. Fontana for his service. His second comment was that he sent a letter to the Selectmen stating that he did not receive a letter from the Selectman's office notifying him that his term on the Inland Wetlands Board was expiring and asking him if he would like to continue. He then continued on to quote several paragraphs from Mr. Freda's response letter. He stated that he felt the Democratic Party leadership acted unilaterally and that was a violation of their bylaws. Mr. Freda disagreed and stated that he worked with the leadership of the party and accepted their recommendation; he felt Mr. Leiserson's issue may be with his party, and intended to continue with the appointments. The discussion continued. Mr. Doheny suggested that this may not be the time for a lengthy discussion. Mr. Freda moved on.

Pamela Sletten, 9 Frost Drive, stated that Mr. Leiserson is a scientist and is very experienced and qualified to sit on the Inland Wetlands Board. When they were faced with a very complex problem, he came up with a multifaceted solution. Mr. Freda thanked Ms. Sletten for her comments.

Mr. Freda then presented Mr. Fontana with a plaque recognizing his years of service and commitment to the Town. Mr. Fontana thanked Mr. Freda and the board and expressed his appreciation for the honor.

Mr. Sturtz asked to comment prior to the appointments to state that he would like to know what assessment is used to appoint or reappoint someone to a board or commission. Also why did only those being reappointed receive a letter advising them that their appointment was expiring, but not those who were not being reappointed to notify them that their appointment was expiring as a matter of courtesy. Although he was not involved in the appointment decisions, he is being asked to vote on these appointments and he is not sure what protocol was used to make these decisions. He feels he has two options, one to delay

the appointments and extend terms, or abstain from the vote. Tim Doheny stated that he does not know that there has ever been a formal procedure for appointments. His understanding is it is a conversation that takes place between the board members, the chairmen of the various boards, and the party chairmen, which was done this time. There is no application. Mr. Freda stated that we consulted with the party Chairman and Vice Chairman and worked across party lines. He then moved forward with the appointments.

Mr. Doheny read the resignation of Alfred F. Della Valle, Jr. (R), 43 Oakwood Drive, from the North Haven Senior Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Mr. Freda thanked Mr. Della Valle for his service.

Mr. Doheny and Mr. Sturtz alternated reading and moving the following appointments:

- Reappointment of Victor Palma, 83 Woodvale Drive, Northford 06472, as the Tree Warden, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Michael J. Freda (R), 90 Highland Park Road, to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Laurie Jean Hannon (R), 26 Highland Park Road, to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Pasquale Nuzzolillo (R), 7 Mansfield Road to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of John McFarland (Montowese), 40 Moulthrop Street, to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Carl Viens (Northeast), 10 Wilson Avenue, to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Appointment of Maurice Varney (West Ridge), 77 Elm Street, to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, term to expire 12/1/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of David Carney, 56 Hayward Road, Hamden, CT 06473, as Animal Control Officer, term to expire 12/31/12.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Chrystal Rashba, 76 Clifton Street, Wallingford, CT 06492 as Assistant Animal Control Officer, term to expire 12/31/12.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Vincent Landisio, 12 Highmeadow Road, as Open Burning Official, term to expire 1/1/2013.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Robert Bykowski, 99 Spring Road, Land Records Auditor, term to expire 12/31/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Jeremy J. Bykowski, 175 Clintonville Road, Land Records Auditor, term to expire 12/31/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Donald A. Olson, 11 Matthew Lane, as the Department of Motor Vehicles Hearing Officer, term to expire 1/11/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Appointment of James Giuletti (D), 11 Falcon Crest Drive, to the Regional Planning Agency of South Central Connecticut, term to expire 12/31/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

COMMISSION ON AGING (3 year term)

- Reappointment of Rodger Salman (R), 27 Drazen Drive, term to expire 12/31/14.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Katherine F. Loquist (R), 35 Grove Road, term to expire 12/31/14.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Donna Levine (D), 23 LeGrand Road, term to expire 12/31/14.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Reverend Dr. James P. Morgan, 19 Village Street, term to expire 12/31/14.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS (5 year term)

- Reappointment of Rollin M. Hickcox (R), 32 Moulthrop Street, term to expire 12/1/16.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Virginia Kramer (D), 279 Maple Avenue, as an alternate, term to expire 12/1/16.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

CEMETERY COMMISSION (2 year term)

- Reappointment of Michael J. Freda (R), 90 Highland Park Road, term to expire 12/31/13

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION (3 year term)

- Reappointment of Donna L. Malley (U), 18 Algonquin Drive, term to expire 12/31/14.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (3 year term)

- Reappointment of Walter L. Mann (R), 7 Benedict Drive, term to expire 12/31/14.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain
- Reappointment Michael J. Freda (R), 90 Highland Park Terrace, term to expire 12/31/13.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain
- Appointment of Walter M. Spader, Jr. (D), 15 Leighton Court, term to expire 12/31/14.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain

ETHICS, BOARD OF (3 year term – 6 year max)

- Reappointment of Marne Usher (U), 5 Westview Road, term to expire 12/31/14.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes
- Reappointment of William R. Brown (U), 92 Upper State Street, term to expire 12/31/14.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes
- Reappointment of Kerri Kennealy (U), 36 Pool Road, as an alternate, term to expire 12/31/14.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 year term)

- Reappointment of Mary Sacco (R), 239 Rimmon Road, term to expire 12/31/16.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes
- Appointment of Christopher Michael Ficocelli, CPA (R), 68 Blakeslee Avenue, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Alfred F. Della Valle, Jr., term to expire 12/31/12.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION (4 year term)

- Reappointment of Mark R. Trojanowski (R), 49 Jennifer Drive, term to expire 12/31/15.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain
- Appointment of Stephen Darley (D), 100 Fitch Street, term to expire 12/31/15.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain
- Appointment of Cheryl Anne Juniewicz (D), 101 Knollwood Road, term to expire 12/31/15.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION, ALTERNATES (4 year term)

- Reappointment of Steven M. Miller (R), 5 Round Hill Road, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain

LIBRARY- BOARD OF DIRECTORS (6 year term)

- Reappointment of Kimberly Yates Carew (U), 55 Mansfield Road, term to expire 12/31/16.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain

- Reappointment of John Graef, Jr. (R), 5 Anthony Road, term to expire 12/31/16.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain

- Appointment of Paul C. Colella (D), 24 Fieldstone Court, term to expire 12/31/16.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – abstain

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (4 year term)

- Reappointment of Joseph A. Cappucci (D), 1 Surrey Drive, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Mary Lou Stamp (D), 292 Upper State Street, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Michael Pomichter (R), 11 St. John Street, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Suzanne Lewis (D), 24 Sheffield Road, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (4 year term)

- Reappointment of Bernard Pellegrino(R), 10 Marlborough Road, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Scott Abercrombie(U), 21 Conhurst Drive, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Dayle H. Sheridan(D), 94 Garfield Avenue, term to expire 12/31/15.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

- Reappointment of Michael J. Freda (R), 90 Highland Park Road, term to expire 12/31/13.

Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

Following the appointments, Mr. Freda discussed a project that he has been working on regarding solar energy. He began by noting that by going out to bid beginning in January of 2012 the Town will be saving on its energy costs. The savings will be \$1,140,000 over a three year period; roughly \$340,000 per year over the next three years. This administration has been working to be a leader in energy reduction in Town and in the State and has been working to establish a clean and renewable energy. Working with Hugh Davis, Chairman and the other members of the Clean Energy Committee, in the past 18 months solar panels have been installed on the High School helping to dramatically reduce energy costs. The Town has been working with Robert Landino of Centerplan Company and Michael Silvestrini of

Greenskies Renewable Energy.

The administration has put together a proposal that over a twenty year period the Town can save \$3,163,000 by metering various buildings and purchasing solar energy through Greenskies. The location identified for the panels is the old dump off of Sackett Point Road which will enable us to use land that is currently not suitable for any other type of development. We are one of the leaders on this front. There is no capital outlay to the Town. Mr. Freda then introduced Mr. Landino and Mr. Silvestrini who gave a presentation explaining the proposal. They noted that over the past four years they have been working to design and build systems, capitalize them to give maximum benefit to the rate payers, as well as working with the State legislature to pass a bill that will require utility companies to buy solar renewable energy credits from folks that generated electricity using solar modules. Governor Malloy has since passed the Bill PA 1180 which creates a bid opportunity for them in March to design a one megawatt system on the North Haven landfill and have it produce up to 1.5 million kilowatt hours per year without any capital outlay from the Town at 7 cents a kilowatt hour. They continued their presentation answering questions and providing additional information on the technology. At the conclusion of their presentation Mr. Freda asked for a motion to continue the Solar Energy Proposal. Mr. Sturtz motioned to continue and the vote was unanimous to proceed.

Vote: Freda –yes, Doheny – yes, Sturtz – yes

Mr. Freda then asked for Public Comments. Mr. Sturtz stated that he would like to remind everyone that democracy is not a spectator sport. Our form of Town government is a participatory model and regardless of whether elected or appointed to serve it is imperative that they attend all board and commission meetings, contribute to the issues and vote in the best interest of the Town.

Hugh Davis, 1261 Ridge Road, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force applauded and commended Mr. Freda in particular and the Board for their initiative on the solar panels and noted that it goes far beyond what the conservation committee has been able to do, but it will help them to get additional panels for the high school due to the points earned.

Leddy McPhederan, 21 Central Avenue, of the Clean Energy Task Force also expressed her appreciation to Mr. Freda for initiating the solar installation.

Janet McCarty, 15 Cella Terrace, questioned Mr. Freda on the events and time line regarding the conversations between Mr. Freda and Mr. Criscoulo. Mr. Freda explained that he worked in a collaborative fashion with the leadership of the Democratic Party who put forth two candidates. Ms. McCarty felt that Mr. Freda did not follow the protocol of their party. Mr. Freda stated those are issues internal to the party and do not have a bearing on the Board of Selectmen.

Peter Criscoulo, 15 Fawn Ridge Road, stated that there were several discussions back and forth between Mr. Freda, Walter Spader and himself and at no time did Mr. Freda tell them that he was going to put someone on, but rather asked if they had anyone that wanted to get on or get off boards and commissions. He indicated that over the past several months they ask at party meetings. He also noted that in 2007 Ms. McCarty chose not to reappoint 14 people without discussion. Mr. Doheny noted that two people came to mind that Janet did not reappoint in 2007. He noted that he believes very few people had not been reappointed under this administration. The discussion continued.

Jennie Caldwell, 69 Kimberly Circle, feels that there should be some kind of formal procedure for appointments and reappointments to boards and commissions. Mr. Freda stated that if she has any suggestions that she would like to put in writing and submit to the board they would review them.

Billy Leiserson, 15 Cella Terrace, asked if he heard Mr. Freda correctly that he would like Mr. Doheny and Mr. Sturtz to work collaboratively to fill the remaining vacancies on the boards and commissions. Mr. Freda stated he did. Mr. Leiserson asked why not talk to the party chairman, as he did for the other reappointments. Mr. Freda responded that he worked with Mr. Fontana in the same way expecting that he would go back to his party for recommendations or discuss it with the leadership of his party. The discussion continued.

Mr. Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, agreed with Mr. Sturtz for speaking up. He asked about the ADA Town Hall project and when it would be completed. He went on to discuss his desire to move the Board of Finance meetings, which Mr. Freda said in the past he would do. Mr. Freda stated that he tried to change the meeting in March to the rec center and it was a disaster, and they will not go back there. He also noted that the library room is used for many groups and meetings and he does not want to displace them. Mr. Amato said he is giving him fair warning that he will file a complaint if the problem is not rectified in several months. Mr. Amato asked why five out of seven unions are still in negotiations. Mr. Ryan is an attorney who specializes in labor law, so why are they not done. He also reviewed our legal bills and sees that Mr. Donofrio is getting paid more money than Mr. Ryan, so who is the town attorney. Mr. Freda noted that this administration has dramatically decreased the number of attorneys and the legal fees by 37% a year in the first two years, and eliminate all the major litigation of the past. Mr. Freda stated that the contracts can't be discussed outside of the collective bargaining process. Mr. Amato asked Mr. Freda's opinion on the behavior exhibited at the recent Fire Commissioner's meeting. Mr. Freda said he cannot comment because he did not see the meeting.

Mr. Criscuolo thanked Mr. Leroy Gould for his time served on the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Mr. Doheny motioned for adjournment at 8:30 pm.
Vote: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes